**In the Claims:**

*Please delete the word "Claims" and insert --What is claimed is:-- therefor.*

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1. (currently amended) A method comprising ~~for implementing minimum activity during discontinuous transmission in a telecommunication connection used to carry a service, which service is one of a number of possible services, at least one of which involves transmitting upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions at predetermined regular intervals during otherwise silent periods in the service, **characterised** in that the method comprises the steps of~~:
- determining ~~(407, 408, 409)~~ a maximum length of a silent period that is longer than [[the]] predetermined regular intervals between upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions transmitted by a service that involves transmitting upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions, and
- at a certain layer of a protocol stack governing communication over [[the]] a telecommunication connection, observing ~~(411)~~ the occurrence of silent periods and transmitting ~~(412)~~ a dummy block over the telecommunication connection if the length of an observed silent period reaches said maximum length without an upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmission or payload data having been transmitted.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~**characterised** in that the step of~~ determining a maximum length of a silent period comprises:
- classifying ~~(401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406)~~ the telecommunication connection according to channel type and interleaving type, and
- determining ~~(407, 408, 409)~~ the maximum length of a silent period according to the classification of the telecommunication connection.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein said ~~**characterised** in that the step of~~ determining a maximum length of a silent period comprises:
- classifying ~~(401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406)~~ the telecommunication connection into either a

dedicated basic physical shared channel at full rate, ~~hereinafter DBPSCH/F,~~ or a dedicated basic physical shared channel at half rate, ~~hereinafter DBPSCH/H,~~ and into either a 4 bursts rectangular interleaving type, an 8 bursts diagonal interleaving type or a 4 bursts diagonal interleaving type, and

- determining ~~(407, 408, 409)~~ the maximum length of a silent period according to the following rules:

  - for 4 bursts rectangular interleaving and dedicated basic physical shared channel at full rate ~~DBPSCH/F~~, a maximum length of a silent period is a first number of time division multiple access frames, excluding slow associated control channel frames,
  - for 8 bursts diagonal interleaving and dedicated basic physical shared channel at full rate ~~DBPSCH/F~~, a maximum length of a silent period is a second number of time division multiple access frames, excluding slow associated control channel frames,
  - for 4 bursts rectangular interleaving and dedicated basic physical shared channel at half rate ~~DBPSCH/H~~ and for 4 bursts diagonal interleaving and dedicated basic physical shared channel at half rate ~~DBPSCH/H~~, a maximum length of a silent period is a third time division multiple access frames, excluding slow associated control channel frames.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein ~~characterised in that~~ said first number is 44, said second number is 40, and said third number is 20.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~characterised in that it comprises a step of~~ controlling at least one of maximum length of an observed silent period before transmitting a dummy block and a number of dummy blocks sent after an observed silent period through a parameterised command from an upper layer in said protocol stack.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising: ~~arrangement for implementing minimum activity during discontinuous transmission in a telecommunication connection used to carry a service, comprising:~~

~~- means for implementing Layer 1, 2 and 3 functionalities of a protocol stack governing communication over the telecommunication connection,~~

- ~~as a part of said means,~~ a dummy block functionality ~~(303)~~ adapted to transmit dummy blocks within [[the]] a telecommunication connection according to certain rules,

~~characterised in that the~~ said dummy block functionality ~~(303) comprises~~ comprising a dummy block timing part ~~(304)~~ adapted to determine a maximum length of a silent period that is longer than a predetermined regular interval between upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions transmitted by a service that involves transmitting upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions, and to trigger the transmission of a dummy block over the telecommunication connection if the length of an observed silent period reaches said maximum length without an upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmission or payload data having been transmitted.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~arrangement~~ according to claim 6, further comprising ~~characterised in that it also comprises~~ a signal codec ~~(101)~~ adapted to act as a source of information to be transmitted over the telecommunication connection, and ~~said signal codec is~~ also adapted ~~(106)~~ to transmit said upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions at predetermined regular intervals during otherwise silent periods in a signal to be encoded in the signal codec.

8. (new) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said dummy block functionality forms part of a module for implementing Layer 1, 2 and 3 functionalities of a protocol stack governing communication over the telecommunication connection.

9. (new) An apparatus comprising:
- means for transmitting dummy blocks within a telecommunication connection according to certain rules, said means for transmitting comprising means for determining a maximum length of a silent period that is longer than a predetermined regular interval between upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions transmitted by a service that involves transmitting upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions, and means for triggering the transmission of a dummy block over the telecommunication connection if the length of an observed silent period reaches said maximum length without an upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmission or payload data having been transmitted.

10. (new) An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a signal codec adapted to act as a source of information to be transmitted over the telecommunication connection, and also

adapted to transmit said upper-level scheduled silence-breaking transmissions at predetermined regular intervals during otherwise silent periods in a signal to be encoded in the signal codec.

11. (new) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for transmitting dummy blocks forms part of a means for implementing Layer 1, 2 and 3 functionalities of a protocol stack governing communication over the telecommunication connection.

**In the Abstract:**

*Please delete the word "Abstract" and insert –Abstract of the Disclosure-- therefor.*